

### CLAIMS

1           1.     (Currently amended.) A composition for ~~alleviating~~ reducing the  
2     occurrence of acne scarring, comprising a compatible combination of: a non-  
3     retinoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix-degrading enzyme; and an active ingredient  
4     selected from the group consisting of comedolytics, antibacterials, anti-  
5     inflammatories, retinoids, glucocorticoids, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1           2.     (Original.) The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an  
2     inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF- $\kappa$ B inhibitors,  
3     elastase inhibitors, adhesion antagonists, and mixtures thereof.

1           3.     (Currently amended.) The ~~compositen~~ composition of claim 1,  
2     wherein the composition is applied topically and is provided in combination with a  
3     dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1           4.     (Currently amended.) The ~~compositen~~ composition of claim 1,  
2     wherein the composition is administered systemically.

1           5.     (Original.) The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient  
2     is a retinoid.

1           6.     (Original.) The composition of claim 1; wherein the active ingredient  
2     is an antibacterial.

1           7.     (Original.) The composition of claim 6, wherein the active ingredient  
2     is benzoyl peroxide.

1           8.     (Original.) The composition of claim 1, comprising a combination of  
2     an MMP inhibitor and a neutrophil elastase inhibitor.

1           9.     (Original.) The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an  
2     antioxidant.

1           10.    (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of:  
2     orally administering an active ingredient for the treatment of acne and topically  
3     administering a non-retinoid, non-glucocorticoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix  
4     degrading enzyme to acne-affected skin.

1           11.    (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is a  
2     retinoid or a tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1           12.    (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is selected  
2     from the group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF- $\kappa$ B inhibitors, elastase inhibitors,  
3     selectin inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1           13.    (Original.) The method of claim 12, wherein the inhibitor of a dermal  
2     matrix degrading enzyme is an MMP inhibitor.

1           14.    (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor an  
2     antioxidant.

1           15.   (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is applied  
2   regularly from once every two days to twice daily.

1           16.   (Original.) The method of claim 15, wherein the inhibitor is applied  
2   daily.

1           17.   (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor comprises a  
2   combination of an MMP inhibitor and an elastase inhibitor.

1           18.   (Currently amended.) The ~~method~~ composition of claim 1, wherein  
2   the inhibitor is a direct MMP inhibitor.

1           19.   (Currently amended.) The ~~method~~ composition of claim 1, wherein  
2   the inhibitor is an indirect MMP inhibitor.

1           20.   (Currently amended.) A combined therapy for ~~alleviating~~ decreasing  
2   the occurrence of acne scarring, comprising a compatible combination of: a non-  
3   retinoid inhibitor or antagonist of an receptor sensitive to LPS-like material; and  
4   an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of comedolytics,  
5   antibacterials, anti-inflammatories, retinoids, glucocorticoids, non-retinoid MMP  
6   inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1           21.   (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the  
2   composition is applied topically and is provided in combination with a  
3   dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1           22.   (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at least one  
2   of the active ingredient and the inhibitor is administered topically.

1           23.   (Currently amended.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at  
2   least one of the active ingredient ~~ingredient~~ ingredient and the inhibitor is administered orally.

1           24.   (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, where the  
2   combination is provided as a single, topically applied composition.

1           25.   (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the inhibitor  
2   or antagonist inhibits or antagonizes a TLR.

1           26.   (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of:  
2   administering an active ingredient for the treatment of acne and administering a  
3   non-retinoid, non-glucocorticoid inhibitor or antagonist of a receptor sensitive to  
4   LPS-like compounds induced or produced by *P. acnes*.

1           27.   (Original.) The method of claim 26, wherein the active ingredient is a  
2   retinoid or a tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1           28.   (Original.) The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or  
2   antagonist is administered topically and applied regularly from once every two  
3   days to twice daily.

1           29. (Original.) The method of claim 25, wherein the inhibitor or  
2 antagonist is administered daily and the active ingredient is administered  
3 topically.

1           30. (Original.) The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or  
2 antagonist reduces the induction or production or signalling by NF- $\kappa$ B.

1           31. (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising administering a  
2 non-retinoid inhibitor of NF- $\kappa$ B to a patient in need thereof.

1           32. (Original.) The method of claim 31, wherein the inhibitor affects the  
2 production of NF- $\kappa$ B from TLRs.

1           33. (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising administering an  
2 inhibitor that prevents CD-14 from activating toll-like receptors.

1           34. (Original.) The method of claim 33, wherein the CD-14 inhibitor is  
2 administered topically.